



LIBRARY

BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the
State of the Public Health
for the year 1952.



Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health. { I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.,
(Appointed 19th. August, 1952)
{ L.N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
(Resigned 19th. August, 1952)

Sanitary Inspector. J.N.S. HARRISON, M.S.I.A., M.I.E.T.,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1952 is presented herewith. It will be noted that, on this occasion, it has been duplicated in the office instead of being printed as hitherto. The cost of printing amounted to £10. 10. 0 last year: this year the report has been produced at an estimated saving to the rates of £8. 10. 0.

Apart from twenty-seven cases of Whooping Cough the health of the community remained good in so far as notifiable disease is concerned. Two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred. These cases were the first to be notified since 1950, when two cases were also notified.

The remarkable progress made with our housing schemes during the year when compared with the difficulties experienced in other parts of North Herefordshire brings the total of post-war new houses completed or under construction at the end of the year to 125. This is indeed very creditable, and especially so, when the difficulties of securing suitable sites and of providing water satisfactory in quality and adequate in amount are remembered.

A comprehensive water scheme based on a Martley Rural District project, though still under consideration, did not make concrete progress during the year in so far as Bromyard is concerned and one hopes that Martley will be able to report developments during the ensuing year.

Inspection of quarters provided for hop-pickers, both before and after the commencement of hop-picking revealed that substantial improvement had been made during past years on a number of farms where, formerly, conditions gave rise to anxiety. The increasing popularity of machine picking now enables farmers to select their pickers, and it is to be expected that the standard of cleanliness and tidiness will improve generally with the elimination of the persistent offenders among pickers.

I have been impressed by the friendly co-operative spirit existing among officials and by the confidence which you Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Council place in us, your officers, to carry out our duties conscientiously and impartially.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster.

Telephone No. Leominster 95.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	61,114
Population	7,044
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to the Rate Books) ..	2,293
Rateable Value	£18,214
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£75. 17. 10d.

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	112	55	57
(Illegitimate)	8	4	4
Total	120	59	61
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	2	2	-
(Illegitimate)	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-
DEATHS	87	48	39
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	2	-	2
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	3	2	1
(Illegitimate)	Nil	-	-

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1952.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	17.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.3
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	0.43
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	0.35
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	12.4
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) ..	25.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	27.6

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

CLINICS

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following clinic facilities are available to residents in the district :-

Child Welfare Centre: On alternate Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Church Hall, Bromyard.

Children are referred to the Ear Nose and Throat, Eye, Paediatric and Tuberculosis Clinics in Hereford as and when required.

I am indebted to Mr. J.N.S. Harrison, Sanitary Inspector to the Council for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C

WATER SUPPLIES.

Number and result of bacteriological and chemical examinations of water.

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Polluted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bacteriological	26	30	56
Chemical	3	-	3
Total	29	30	59

Houses with water laid on inside the house December, 1951.	840
Houses to which water has been made available inside the house during the year.	19
New houses and housing units provided during the year with approved water supply	43
Total number of dwellings with water laid to the house	902
Houses with no water supply within the house	1391
Total housing units, 1952	2293

The above figures are amendments to the Housing Survey carried out in 1949.

There are no publicly owned piped water supplies laid on to dwelling houses in the district, supplies are by private wells and springs with the exception of a few communal wells which the Council maintain. The Council has provided a system of public standpipes from the Norton public spring supply in order to improve the access to the supply which was previously very difficult in inclement weather.

Water failures were reported from Fromes Hill, Cricks Green and Grendon Firs areas. In each case an emergency supply was arranged and water conveyed each day whilst the emergency lasted. It is known that shortages exist in most areas and that water has to be carried long distances. This is especially so in the Cradley area.

In an endeavour to provide for a local water scheme at Cradley, one that would fit in with the Comprehensive Water Scheme, the Council ordered their borewell deviner and sinker to make a survey of Cradley district to ascertain the possibilities of an abundant supply of deep well water. The result indicated two sites where supplies of at least 1,500 gallons per hour could be guaranteed. One on high ground at Birchwood and the other in the village near the Bosbury Road. The Council are further considering the possibilities of these supplies.

The Council are now considering a comprehensive supply for the whole of the area from the Martley Rural District. This scheme is dependant on the result of deep well borings which are now in hand by the Martley Council.

The Ministry of Health has agreed the proposed local scheme for the Whitbourne area. This is now in the hands of the Council's Water Engineer.

Damage to public property still persists. Repairs had to be made to the concrete cover to a spring supplying public standpipes at Norton. Also a standpipe was broken off at Norton with the result that the whole system was drained.

Four hundred and twelve visits have been made concerning water supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

New drainage systems and treatment tanks have been approved at fifty-one premises including the twenty-eight new Council houses. Water closets have been provided in all cases where new drainage systems have been installed.

Number of visits for the purpose 226

The sewage plants and drainage on the Housing Sites, as they increase in number and age, are demanding more and more maintenance and attention. The maintenance staff are insufficient to give the service required as advised in the Housing Manual 1952. There are now twenty-one sites with various kinds of sewage disposal plants and drainage work to maintain and two workmen who are engaged on all duties required by the Council.

The treatment tanks have to be emptied regularly to keep them working and this is done by a firm of contractors with a mechanical sludge tank emptier. They make their own arrangements with local farmers for the disposal of the sludge; this has proved satisfactory but is a costly service.

Number of houses with water closets .. 601

Number of houses with other type closets 1692

Total dwellings 2293

Number of houses with no drainage systems 559

The above figures are amendments of the 1949 Housing Survey Report as far as office records allow.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The monthly collection of the household refuse has continued satisfactorily throughout the year.

Two new tipping sites have been made available during the year, one at Ridgway Cross, Cradley and the other at Little Cowarne. The other four sites have continued to be used at Bredenbury, Edwyn Ralph, Stanford Bishop and Woodend Farm, Cradley.

The tips are treated with D.D.T. powder in the summer to combat fly nuisance and regular inspections are made by the Pest Officer to ensure there is no infestation of the tip face and top after each period of tipping. Part of the Refuse Collectors Contract is the covering and sealing of the tip face after each period of tipping. This has satisfactorily been carried out by the present contractor.

Number of visits concerning Refuse Collection 50

Contractors Records.

	Total per annum.	Average per month.
Number of properties visited for the purpose of the collection of refuse.	15,628	1,294
Mileage covered on the above collection.	5,364	447
Tons of Refuse collected - approximate.	324	27

These figures show that approximately 56.5% of the population are taking advantage of the service.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council engaged an additional workman in June and allocated one week in three of his time to Pest Act survey and work. The Pest Officer attended a two day course on Rodent Control at Hereford organised by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Regional Representative has also been very helpful with advice.

The Pest Officer's report for the year was as follows :-

RODENT CONTROL

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses excluding combined dwelling business premises	Agricultural	All other including Business and Industrial	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	26	1,889	346	32	2,293
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result (a) of Notification or (b) otherwise	(a) -	5	-	-	5
	(b) 25	507	130	-29	691
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested with rats.	Major -	4	10	-	14
	Minor -	66	68	5	139
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice	-	3	-	-	3
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.	-	2	-	-	2
VI. Number of Notices served under Section 4:-					
(1) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL (Continued)

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses excluding combined dwelling business premises	Agricultural	All other including Business and Industrial	
II. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of Notice under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
III. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
IX. Number of "block control" schemes carried out	Nil.				

The County Agricultural Executive Rodent Control Officer was notified of the ten major infestations found on agricultural property and in each case a contract between them and the farm occupier was made to clear and maintain the premises free of rats. The other cases were satisfactorily dealt with by the householder concerned.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of visits concerning infectious diseases .. 17

Number of premises disinfected (including hop-pickers quarters, T.B. shelters etc.) 24

Preventive disinfection of hop-pickers latrines and barracks were carried out again this year by the owners in an endeavour to combat fly nuisance.

CARAVANS, SUMMER CHALETS, Etc.

The Council have approved the use of individual caravans for summer use only at two places, and one van at Hill Cottage, Stokes Hill, Hampton Charles for one year, whilst plans are being submitted for the erection of a bungalow. Existing licences have been renewed.

HOP PICKERS LODGING ACCOMMODATION.

Except for inconveniences caused by the weather conditions the accommodation provided this season for hop-pickers has been reasonably good. Since the reduction in the number of pickers required by the increase of machines the type of picker and accommodation appears to have steadily improved. There are now ten farms with machines, which serve fourteen farms, an increase of two machines and one farm over last year. Several farms have been connected to the electricity mains and have installed electric lighting in the barracks.

No infectious disease was reported amongst the hop pickers this year.

Several other improvements were carried out including additional accommodation at Rosemaund, Felton, for 200 pickers and also at Hinton Farm, Felton, to replace existing old farm buildings. Two old buildings at Upper House, Bishops Frome, which were condemned

Dr. Donaldson, the Ministry of Health representative, made his annual visit early this year, he was able to see that the farm owners had provided buildings to Byelaw standard.

Twenty informal notices were given concerning complaints of lack of refuse bins, neglected closet accommodation and defects to structures.

Number of visits made 106

TABLE SHOWING INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR:-

Inspections etc. under	Number	Informal Notices served.	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with.
Housing Act	763	54	1	50
Drainage and Public Health Acts ..	226	20	-	20
Cowsheds and Dairies ..	132	9	-	9
Factories and Workshops ..	9	-	-	-
Bakehouses	2	-	-	-
Hop Pickers Quarters ..	106	20	-	20
Water Supplies	412	30	-	28
Infectious Diseases ..	17	-	-	-
Food and Drugs Act 1938 ..	16	2	-	-
Ice Cream	24	3	-	3
Petroleum (Regulations) Act 1928 and 1936. ..	13	3	-	14
Refuse Collection	50	36	-	36
Caravans etc.	4	1	-	1

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948 INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities.	1	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	3	6	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	9	-	-

SECTION D. HOUSING.

The Council now own 119 houses as follows :-

Heathfields 2; Avenbury 2; Wolferlow 2; Cricks Green 4; Evesbatch 4; Pencombe 6; Tedstone de la Mere 6; Upper Sapey 6; Stanford Bishop 6; Linton 8; Whitbourne 8; Ullingswick 9; Much Cowarne 10; Stoke Lacy 10; Grendon Firs 10; Cradley 26.

These include the 28 new houses built by the Council during the year at Tedstone de la Mere (6), Upper Sapey (6), Stanford Bishop (6), and Grendon Firs (10). The latter site included four two bedroomed bungalows.

Work is in progress on 22 houses at Fromes Hill. Sites have been approved at Bishops Frome and Ocle Pychard. Several further sites have been agreed but are waiting the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government before building can commence.

The result of the 14 days pumping test at Grendon Firs Borewell was an average of 2,250 gallons per hour. This test could not indicate the total yield of the well as the pump used was the largest that could be fitted in the 6" borewell lining. During the test the water level in the well never showed less than 75 feet.

Further borewells were sunk with pumping tests indicating as follows :-

Fromes Hill	-	750	gallons	per	hour	tested	7	days.
Cricks Green	-	230	"	"	"	"	4	days.

The Cricks Green borewell is to supply four Council houses built in 1920. The only water supply being a 12 foot well which always dried up in the summer and showed pollution. It is proposed to install a pumping plant, tower and feed to each house.

The gravity supply from a spring for the Upper Sapey Housing Site is now working satisfactorily.

The Council were concerned that houses were being vacated with damages and defects which were due to the tenants neglect. They were put to a lot of trouble to recover the cost of remedying these defects. They now demand a deposit of 50/- from each new tenant which is returned when the house is vacated, less any cost of repairs resulting from the tenants neglect.

The total consumption of water at the 26 Buryfields Houses was 415,850 gallons, giving a daily average per house of $44\frac{1}{2}$ gallons.

The Munderfield Houses have been wired for and connected to the electricity main.

Number of houses completed during the year :-

Council	-	28	Private	-	13	Total	-	41
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Number of housing units provided by conversion of existing building :-

Council	-	Nil.	Private	-	2	Total	-	2
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Total additional housing units provided 43

Number of inspections made during the year under the Public Health and Housing Acts.	989
Number of Demolition Orders made	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices served	Nil
Number of undertakings by owners not to relet	Nil

Housing Act, 1949.

Applications for grants for reconditioning existing houses.	
Number approved	6
Number refused	Nil
Number paid on completion	Nil

Housing Act, 1938.

Applications for grant aided agricultural dwellings.	
Number approved	Nil
Number refused	Nil
Number completed	2

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supplies.

Number of premises registered by the Local Authority.	Nil
Number of milk samples taken	73
Number of visits	132

Result of Milk Samples.

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total.</u>
From school supplies	62	9	71
Other milk supplies	2	0	2
	64	9	73

The monthly sampling of milk from schools was terminated when the supplier obtained a T.T. milk bottlers licence for his premises outside the Bromyard Rural District.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938 and FOOD HANDLING BYELAWS.

A suspected case of Food Poisoning from Sherbet powder was reported. Analysed samples proved negative and no further complaints were received.

Informal notices were served concerning the use of an unsatisfactory vehicle for the conveyance of meat and meat products and for lack of hot and cold water, towels, etc. to a butchers shop. The building has not since been used and an alternative vehicle is being used.

Forty pounds of beef were condemned and surrendered due to bone taint.

ICE CREAM.

Total number of shops registered	..	..	4
Number of visits	..	..	24
Number of Informal Notices	..	..	3

Ice cream purveyors continue to visit the hop-fields during hop-picking time; some of the vehicles are totally unsuitable for the sale of Ice Cream and they were warned not to revisit the area.

A nationally known firm of Ice Cream Manufacturers visit several parts of the area daily. Their arrangements are extremely good.

One additional application was approved for the sale of pre-wrapped ice cream and one registered person ceased to sell ice cream.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT.

Number of Slaughtermans licences issued including renewals	..	..	1
Number of licenced slaughtermen registered			10

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Unknown Over		
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	2	-	2	2	-	8
Whooping Cough	4	6	10	7	-	-	-	-	27
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	2	3	4	1	1	1	-	12
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	4
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation and number who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection subsequent to primary immunisation at an earlier age, during the 12 months ended 31st. December, 1952.

Age at date of final injection.				Reinforcing injections.
Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	
30	51	20	101	152

The Registrar General regrets that owing to a reduction in the sources of information available for estimating local populations under 15 years of age for County Districts, it will no longer be possible to supply estimates of such populations.

Population figures under 15 have been supplied in the past mainly to provide a basis for estimating the proportion of the child population in the area which had been immunised against diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1952 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of thirty-two males and twenty-six females who normally reside within the district.

During the year, seventeen new cases were notified, sixteen on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period one death of a person suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, and three left the district.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	2	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	8	9	17
18. Coronary disease, angina	4	3	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	-	-	-
20. Other heart disease	12	9	21
21. Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	3	2	5
24. Bronchitis	1	2	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	2	2
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	-	-	-
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-	-

All causes

